

CHARLEY ROSS

The Abductors of the Missing Boy Shot Dead Yesterday at Bay Ridge.

A BURGLAR'S DYING CONFESSION.

How the New York and Philadelphia Detectives Obtained a Clue.

WHERE IS THE CHILD?

Superintendent Walling's Suspensions and the Way They Were Justified.

THE BAY RIDGE TRAGEDY.

The public interest in the Ross abduction case was revived and the identity of the men who abducted the child established yesterday beyond a doubt in a way that was as tragic as it was unexpected. It would seem that ever since the description given by the little brother of Charley Ross of the "two men in a buggy" was made public, Superintendent Walling of the police felt certain that it answered the description of two burglars, named Mosher and Douglas, who generally "worked" in company. Starting out unhesitatingly with that conviction, the police have with the greatest secrecy ever since, under his direction, been laboring day and night in order to trace the soundrels to their lair. From a variety of causes they failed, but the dying statement of one of the two men, both of whom were killed yesterday while perpetrating a burglary at Bay Ridge, near Fort Hamilton, shows conclusively that Mr. Walling's suspicions as to who the abductors were were well founded, and that his starting point was the correct one. What bearing the death of the abductors, who died without giving a clue as to the child's whereabouts, will have upon the chances of the discovery of the boy is a question which depends now, seemingly, upon the willingness of a third party, who was an accessory after the fact in the abduction, to produce the child, or upon the skill of the police in ferreting out this party's hiding place, if unwilling to produce the boy voluntarily. But as to the tragedy and what brought it about.

THE TRAGEDY.

About one mile from Fort Hamilton, and just adjoining the city limits, is a cluster of houses known as Bay Ridge, which is located in the summer residences—a handsome frame structure, surrounded by ample grounds—of Judge Van Brunt, of the Court of Common Pleas, of New York. The building is not occupied in the winter season, its care devolving upon a brother of the Judge, Mr. J. H. Van Brunt, who is a farmer and resides with his family in a building distant about two hundred feet. Between the two houses stands a stable, where William Scott, a laborer, lives. The Judge, last summer, recognizing the exposed position of the place, which overlooks the river, caused burglar alarms to be placed on the window sills and doors of his house, and the wires were connected with an alarm bell in the sleeping apartment of Mr. J. H. Van Brunt. About three o'clock yesterday morning the latter named gentleman was aroused from his slumbers by the sharp metallic sound of the alarm. He started up, and, as he did, he first supposed that the noise was due to the fact that as he had been in his brother's house that day he might have left the windows raised, and the wind doubtless caused the alarm to sound. On second thought he determined upon sending his son Albert, a young man twenty-four years of age, to close the windows in the house. Albert proceeded to obey the order of his father, but before doing so called the servant Scott, who was sleeping in the stable, to accompany him. On approaching the house they discovered a light in the upper part of the domicile, and as once determining that there was something wrong within they quietly withdrew. Albert said, on returning to his home, "Father, there is some one in the Judge's house. The old gentleman, springing out of bed, proceeded to dress himself rapidly, and said, 'Get the shotguns, my son, and call Herman Frank,' another farm laborer who slept on the premises. When they had seen well to the loading and priming of their pieces the four men sallied forth quietly to protect their property and punish the daring robbers who had invaded the premises. The forces were deployed expeditiously and quietly by Mr. Van Brunt, Sr., who, in company with William Scott, lay down in the grass on his belly, in the rear of the Judge's house. Albert Van Brunt and Herman Frank went to the front of the building. Frank screened himself from view and Albert boldly shook the front door, making a racket which at once alarmed the burglars within. As they blew out the light instantly, in a moment he heard them moving down stairs, and, peering through a window, he saw two men, one of whom was a white man, the other a negro, pass across the porch. They then made their way into the cellar and were emerging from the cellar doorway in the rear when the men who were lying in the grass covered them with their leveling pieces and cried out:

"Halt! stop!" The only response was two pistol shots which the fleeing burglars fired in quick succession. One of the men uttered an exclamation of pain, indicating plainly that he had been wounded by a shot which was fired at the same moment by Mr. Albert Van Brunt. Both burglars turned to run up an alleyway at the left of the house. Albert then came up and fired a shot at the man first hit, and turning upon the other fellow shot at him. The elder Van Brunt came up to the assistance of his son, who was engaged with the first burglar, and fired a shot into the yard. The man Frank fired a charge of shot into the latter fellow, who fell down upon his face. The fellow who was in combat with Albert fired two shots at him from a small Smith & Wesson revolver, and again he raised the pistol, pointing the muzzle in the young man's face. Quick as thought Albert clubbed and raised his musket, striking the burglar with such force on the right forearm that the stock of the piece was shattered to splinters, the pistol fell from his hand and he was thrown to the ground.

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and, turning about with a yell, he ran away. Albert then drew a pistol from his pocket and fired three times at the fleeing man. Two shots took effect and death was almost instantaneous. The defenders of the Van Brunt house then being masters of the situation proceeded to examine the condition of their game. The man who had been brought down by Frank's shot was dying, but still conscious. A light was procured, and, bending over him, Mr. Van Brunt, Sr., said, "Young man, your time is pretty short now. If you have anything to say to me you had better say it at once. Who are you? What is your name? and where did you come from?" The dying man replied,

"We came from New York. My name is Joseph Mosher. The man lying over there is William Douglas. We live in Philadelphia, and have a wife and six children. Superintendent Walling would give a good deal to get hold of that man. If he had not been killed tonight he might have told you where that boy who was stolen from Germantown (Charley Ross) is to be found." "Have you any relatives about here?" inquired Mr. Van Brunt. "I have," was the answer. "Two sisters living somewhere, but I have not seen them for more than ten years. You will find in my pocket \$40, and all ask of you to keep it for me."

THE REVELATION.

Douglas lingered for upwards of two hours in agony, and expired about half-past five o'clock. The bodies were carried out of the cold rain which was falling in beneath the shelter of the porch of the house which they had been compelled to rob.

two whiskers and mustache, five feet nine inches in height. His features were decidedly unprepossessing, a portion of his nose being eaten away by cancer. The first thing that struck the eye was that his hand was missing. In his pocket was found a caustic pencil, and a few matches. Douglas, who was also a black man, had a mustache and a few whiskers, and was about the same height and build as Mosher. He had evidently enjoyed a fair share of the life of crime, and was a well-to-do man. At an early hour in the morning, among whom the story spread of the rapidity of the robbery, gathered about the scene of the tragedy and peered curiously at the dead bodies of the two men. Among the curious spectators were two men who had been seen in the yard during the night. A man named Mosher, who was a well-known burglar, and a woman named Douglas, who was a well-known thief. They were both seen in the yard during the night, and were both seen in the yard during the night.

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